

Over 9,000 Runners Join Mississauga Marathon

Music And Sea Of Confetti Celebrate 15th Edition Of Event At Celebration Square

MISSISSAUGA, ON - The 2018 Mississauga Marathon celebrated 15 Years Running in style at Celebration Square, sending participants off from the start line in a sea of confetti with spectators lining the chute and cheering them on.

A large contingent of 9,082 participants took part in seven events throughout the 15th edition of Mississauga Marathon Race Weekend! Friends and family of participants gathered pre-race to commemorate a very special group of participants who were about to complete their 15th event, having taken part in every Mississauga Marathon since its inception in 2004.

Music, announcements and a pre-race warm up hosted by SWAT Health built up anticipation throughout the morning, before the shot gun start at 7:30AM. The previous evening, MNP 10KM, 10KM Student Relay and Novo Nordisk® "Hazel" 5KM participants made their way through Clarkson and Port Credit villages on their way to the finish line at Lakefront Promenade Park, while the Timbits 2KM Fun Run/Walk took off from Hiawatha Park at 12:30PM.

"2018 was a very special year for us," says Elliott Kerr, Race Chairman and President of Landmark Sport Group Inc., organizers of the Mississauga Marathon. "The dedication of our 15 Year Runners and the continued support from the community is why we love putting on this event. We couldn't be happier with this year's Mississauga Marathon!"

Approximately 50 participants were celebrated as 15 Year Runners, including a large number of Mississauga locals. As some



of the first people to participate in the Mississauga Marathon in 2004, this special group of runners continue to return year after year to their favourite Spring race.

Seven different events at five distances provided "A Run For Everyone" throughout Race Weekend, with races held on both Saturday evening and Sunday morning. Participants of all ages, athletic ability or experience were able to enjoy and experience everything that this must-run Spring event has to offer, with events including the Full Marathon, Full Marathon Relay Challenge, Pandora Square One Half Marathon, MNP 10KM, 10KM Student Relay, Novo Nordisk® "Hazel" 5KM and Timbits 2KM Fun Run/Walk!

The Mississauga Marathon allows all participants to reach new goals, whether by setting a new personal best time or by simply completing their first race. The event is a qualifier for the Boston Marathon. While an 80 metre net downhill course can help with achieving these goals, casual runners appreciate the on course atmosphere provided by spectators, cheer stations and local bands all cheering them on.

"This year's event completely exceeded our expectations," says Peter Milway, Event Coordinator. "We were at a sell out capacity for three of our events - the Full Marathon Relay Challenge, Novo Nordisk® "Hazel" 5KM and Timbits 2KM Fun Run/Walk. These events are heavily involved in Mississauga's business

and school community and we are very pleased that the events are being recognized as community builders."

On the competitive side of Race Weekend, Tsegaye Dissasa, Toronto, and Clemence Vauzelle, Etobicoke, crossed the finish line first in the Full Marathon event with respective times of 2:31 and 3:02. In the Pandora Square One Half Marathon, Wendimu Adanee, Toronto, and Michelle Clarke, Toronto, took top honours in 1:06 and 1:23, respectively. Participants in each event received a finisher's medal upon crossing the finish line with additional prizes awarded to winners in their respective age and gender categories in each event. Runner's Hy was the first team to cross the finish line in the Full

Marathon Relay Challenge, with teams of five members completing 42.2KM together. On Saturday evening, Sergio Ruez Villanueva, Mississauga, and Emebet Mengistu, Addis Ababa, were top finishers in the MNP 10KM and Predrag Mladaevic, Toronto, and Kim Thomas, Milton, in the Novo Nordisk® "Hazel" 5KM.

The 2018 Mississauga Marathon Scotiabank Charity Challenge raised funds for a record number of charities this year, with a total of 31 charity partners.

Participants were able to choose to raise funds for a charity of their choice, with both local and national charities as options. Donations for all charity partners will continue to be collected until June 6th, 2018.

Pic: Facebook capture

Surplus Property to Support Vibrant Communities

TORONTO: The province is prioritizing the needs of Ontarians and focusing on community interests when it comes to decisions about the future uses of closed, surplus or unused publicly owned properties.

Bob Chiarelli, Minister of Infrastructure, was joined by Nathalie Des Rosiers, MPP for Ottawa-Vanier and Karen Pitre, Premier's Special Advisor on Community Hubs, in Ottawa to announce a new comprehensive Social Purpose Real Estate Strategy that requires the needs of local communities to be considered when it comes to the disposi-

tion, acquisition and use of public properties and infrastructure planning.

The province is supporting the development of community hubs through the following:

- The Community Hubs Resource Network provides resources and tools relevant to those planning for or working in a community hub.
- A new application-based Facilitation Program that will advance community capacity building, help convene and bring local players together, and deliver services that support the development and operation of sustainable

community hubs.

- An expanded Surplus Property Transition Initiative, which allows for adequate time for local champions to develop hub proposals for surplus public properties by providing funding to cover holding costs while business plans to acquire the surplus property are developed.
- A new second stage of the Surplus Property Transition Initiative that will also allow community organizations to apply for funding to assist with acquisition or long-term lease of surplus provincial, school board or hospital properties.

Repurposing public properties provides many benefits for communities, including:

- More long-term care homes and seniors' housing for the aging population
- Affordable housing that will give more people in Ontario a place to call home
- Recreational and support programs to maintain the health and wellbeing of all family members
- Youth programming and child care services to take the pressure off working parents
- Trade and innovation centres to address education training and

skilled trades barriers.

- As part of the Social Purpose Real Estate (SPRE) Strategy, an intergovernmental committee will be established to make recommendations on the future use of public properties, ensuring decisions are looked at through a community lens.
- Four successful Surplus Property Transition Initiative projects were recently announced in Hamilton, Ottawa, Owen Sound and Thunder Bay.
- CommunityHubsOntario.ca provides a map of current surplus public properties and a map of over 185 community hubs.

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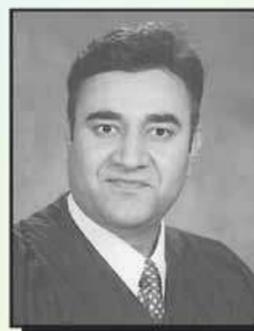
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